

Inside ICE

D.C. ICE MAKES MAJOR KHAT SEIZURE

ICE agents in Washington, D.C. successfully made an undercover controlled delivery October 25, arresting four men and seizing almost 3,000 lbs. of the illegal stimulant Khat.

ICE agents said the discovery of such a large load of Khat is unusual. Khat is a flowering shrub native to northeast Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Because use of Khat tends to be cultural, it is not as well known as other illegal narcotics. ICE agents said it is not uncommon for non-African or non-Arab seekers of Khat to be turned away by the sellers.

The case began in late September when ICE agents, working on confidential information, teamed with officers of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to search a container located on a vessel at the Port of Baltimore. In the container, ICE agents found 41 boxes filled with Khat, which had been freeze-dried to preserve the freshness and potency of the drug.

ICE agents working undercover took control of the load and made arrangements to deliver the Khat to a warehouse in Washington, D.C. on October 25.

When four men arrived at the warehouse in two vehicles to pick up the load of Khat, they were arrested by ICE agents. A search of the vehicles and the warehouse yielded \$13,600 in cash and 40 pounds of Khat, and ICE agents also found an additional 60 lbs. of Khat at

another warehouse linked to one of the defendants.

Khat is usually packaged in plastic bags or wrapped in banana leaves and sometime sprinkled with water to retain its moisture and freshness, and thus its potency. ICE agents estimated the Khat seized in the operation had a street value of about \$5 million.

Khat produces feelings of excitement and euphoria, inane laughing and eventually a semi-coma or deep sleep. Used chronically, it can lead to a form of delirium. Khat also increases respiratory and pulse rates, tends to increase blood pressure and decreases the functional capacity of the cardiovascular system.



ICE agents stand guard over almost 3,000 lbs. of Khat with a street value of about \$5 million. The illegal stimulant was seized in a raid October 29. Four men were also arrested.

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ICE NABS MOTHER, DAUGHTER IN KIDNAPPING

Two women, a mother and her daughter, have been arrested on conspiracy and international kidnapping charges after they allegedly held for ransom a seven-year-old child who was being smuggling into the United States.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Tomasa Camacho was arrested on October 18 in New Jersey. Her daughter, Rita Georgina Sandoval Camacho, was arrested October 16 in the Dominican Republic. The child was safely rescued when law enforcement officials in the Dominican Republic, working with ICE, arrested Rita Camacho and found the child in her custody.

Tomasa and Rita Camacho are charged in a federal criminal complaint with demanding payment of thousands of dollars as a condition of the release of a child whom they had agreed to smuggle into the United States.

The ICE investigation discovered that sometime in 2003, a couple living in New York wanted to be reunited with their two children and arranged with a co-conspirator of the Camachos to pay approximately \$23,000 to have the children, a son and a daughter, smuggled into the United States from Ecuador through Peru. One of the parents then sent the children, escorted by their grandparents, by bus from Ecuador

to Lima, Peru sometime in November 2003.

In Lima, smugglers took control of the children, and from that point that parent allegedly made additional payments of approximately \$100 each week to the smugglers in Lima and also made payments to Rita Camacho. After approximately five months, in about February 2004, the smugglers made arrangements for the daughter to travel from Peru through Brazil to John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, N.Y. The smugglers advised the parent that the son, who was then six years old, would soon also be smuggled into the United States.

Rita Camacho and the son allegedly traveled to the Dominican Republic in May 2004. Then, about two weeks later, she and the child traveled to Haiti. From that point, according to the complaint, demands were made for additional payment in exchange for the return of the son. For example, in about May 2004, Rita Camacho allegedly told the parent that the son would not be brought to the United States unless the parent paid an additional \$5,000, which the parent paid. Then, in about August 2004, Rita Camacho, still holding the child, demanded an additional \$10,000. However, by September 2004, ICE agents were investigating the smuggling and kidnapping scheme and they recorded telephone conversations between the parent, Rita Camacho in Haiti and Tomasa Camacho, who was in New Jersey, in which they discussed additional ransom demands. The investigation eventually led to the arrest of the Camachos and the release of the child.

Tomasa Camacho appeared before a federal magistrate in New York October 16 and was ordered detained.

Rita Camacho was in the custody of Dominican authorities as of October 16 pending her removal to the United States. If convicted of the charges contained in the complaint, the defendants each face a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

ICE SECURITY OPS NET 237 ARRESTS

Assistant Secretary Michael J. Garcia announced November 5 that since October 1, ICE has arrested 237 immigration status violators nationwide as part of the government-wide Interagency Security Plan that will remain in effect through the 2005 Presidential Inauguration.

The initiative locates immigration status violators who may pose an elevated criminal or national security threat. It combines the resources of ICE's Investigation, Detention and Removal and Intelligence offices to apply real-time threat information to detect, prevent, and disrupt potential terrorist activities. Since October 1, ICE has completed more than 900 investigations as part of the stepped-up enforcement effort.

"This initiative demonstrates how we effectively enforce immigration laws in the national security context, bringing legitimate charges against immigration status violators who may also pose an elevated threat," Mr. Garcia said.

ICE is relying primarily upon its Compliance Enforcement Unit, created in June 2003. The unit researches and assigns leads from a variety of sources, including the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System and the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology program.

Inside ICE is an e-newsletter produced by the ICE Office of Public Affairs to inform the public about the mission, operations and activities of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Please send comments and contributions to:

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ICE DEPORTS HONDURAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR

MIAMI—Former Honduran Army Lt. Col. Juan Lopez-Grijalba, a human rights violator linked to the kidnapping, torture and murder of approximately 184 people who disappeared in Honduras during the 1980s, was deported by the Miami Field Office of ICE's Detention and Removal Office (DRO) October 21.

PUBLIC SECURITY

"ICE remains committed to ensuring the United States is not used as a safe haven for persecutors who brought death and misery upon others," said ICE Miami DRO Field Office Director Michael Rozos. "The officers, agents and attorneys of ICE continue to work closely to identify, arrest and deport these people who hide their past deeds by taking advantage of our immigration laws."

Lopez-Grijalba was head of the Honduran army intelligence Battalion 3-16 during the 1980s. Battalion 3-16 was a death squad charged with cracking down on perceived Honduran leftists. In addition, Lopez-Grijalba also led the Directorate

of National Investigations (Direccion de Investigaciones Nacionales) and was later promoted to the head of military intelligence for the Honduran armed forces.

Lopez-Grijalba was arrested here in April 2002 after the Department of Homeland Security withdrew his Temporary Protected Status because of his involvement in serious non-political offenses prior to entering the United States.

ICE's Human Rights Violator Unit and the Human Rights Law Division investigated and presented the case.



Former Honduran Army Lt. Col. Juan Lopez-Grijalba is led from an ICE detention van prior to his deportation October 21 in Miami.

MIAMI ICE FINDS LIQUID HEROIN SMUGGLED IN KIDS' JUICE BOXES

Five pallets of liquefied heroin hidden in six-ounce liquid fruit juice boxes were intercepted November 3 by Department of Homeland Security and Miami Dade Police Department officers.

PUBLIC SECURITY

ICE agents and U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers identified and intercepted the private shipment from Colombia after receiving an anonymous tip.



One of the juice containers and a packet of the liquid heroin found by Miami ICE agents.

A field test revealed that nearly 100 juice boxes contained heroin. The heroin had a total weight of 38 kilograms with a wholesale value of more than \$1.7 million.

ICE agents believe the juice was initially purchased from a grocery store in Colombia. The juice containers were then emptied and refilled with the heroin. The shipment was re-labeled and palletized alongside legitimate boxes and then shipped to the U.S.

The product, labeled as "Hit Fruit Drink," never made it to any public markets and ICE agents believe the shipment was not destined for U.S. markets. The Hit Corporation and its facilities were not involved in the repackaging or smuggling attempt.

"ICE is investigating this case to track and apprehend the drug traffickers responsible," said Jesus Torres, ICE's Special Agent-in-Charge in Miami.

ICE FAM RECEIVES FBI AWARD FOR JTTF WORK

ICE Federal Air Marshal Charles C. Mitts, assigned to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) in Houston, Texas, received the FBI Director's Award for Excellence November 1. FBI Director Robert S. Mueller presented Mitts the award for his distinguished service to law enforcement.

Mitts was recognized for helping establish the Counter Terrorism Intelligence Group (CTIG). The CTIG is a component of the JTTF created in July 2002 by the FBI Houston Field Office as a response to the events of September 11, 2001.

ICE ARRESTS MAN FOR INTERNET DRUG DEALING

A Las Vegas man convicted of running an Internet business that illegally sold prescription drugs and controlled substances faces more than 300 years in prison and \$20 million in fines as a result of an investigation by ICE and the Food and Drug Administration.

Christian Frederic Finze, 46, a resident of Las Vegas and Germany, was convicted by a jury last week on 17 felony counts, including conspiracy to defraud the United States, conspiracy to commit various drug offenses and money laundering. Finze's sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 28, 2005, and he faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

"Unlicensed operators who peddle controlled substances pose a serious threat to our communities," said Stephen Usiak, ICE Resident Agent-in-Charge in Las Vegas. "Using the resources of ICE's Cyber Crimes Center and other law enforcement tools, we're committed to dismantling these schemes and protecting the nation's consumers."

According to court documents, from

October 1998 to May 2002, Christian Finze distributed prescription drugs over an Internet business known as the "Vince-Online" website and "Vinci American, Ltd."

Finze set up a German-based company to ship drugs from Europe to customers in the United States. The shipments included more than 7,000 units of Flunitrazepam, commonly known as the "date rape drug." Flunitrazepam is not approved for manufacture or distribution in the United States.

Finze's role in the conspiracy included processing drug orders; ordering drugs from suppliers in Germany; arranging for CFF Pharma Consult to ship the drugs from Germany to customers in the United States; and incorporating and serving as the officer and director of Vinci American, Ltd. and CFF Pharma Consult. The drugs were shipped from Germany to the United States using forged and fraudulent documents designed to deceive government authorities.

ICE NABS ROMANIAN PREDATOR

ICE Detention and Removal officers in Chicago have arrested a Romanian man convicted of sexually assaulting a mentally disabled cousin he cared for while the girl's mother attended church.

Alexandru Moroz, 30, was arrested without incident at his apartment and remains in ICE custody until he can be deported to Romania.

Under immigration law, Moroz' conviction makes him an aggravated

felon eligible for deportation. Moroz was first ordered deported in 1998, a decision he appealed. Moroz lost his final appeal in July and he failed to surrender to ICE in August.

Moroz's arrest is part of ICE's Operation Predator initiative, which has resulted in the arrest of more than 4,300 sexual predators nationwide since the operation started in July 2003.

ICE BREAKS "ALL IN THE FAMILY" MARRIAGE SCAM

A husband and wife who allegedly divorced to marry the wife's younger brother and sister were arrested by ICE agents October 26 for conspiring to use fraudulent marriages to obtain immigration benefits.

BORDER SECURITY

ICE agents also arrested the two siblings of the wife in the convoluted scheme, which was an attempt to bypass the normal waiting time of 13 years to immigrate from India as a brother or sister of a United States citizen. There is no waiting

period to enter the United States as a spouse of a United States citizen.

Fresno residents Harbans Kaur Hothi, 52; Paramjit Singh Taggar, 44; Gurdeep Singh Atwal, 43; and San Jose resident Pritam Kaur, 35, were indicted and each was charged with one count of conspiracy and multiple counts of making false statements.

According to the indictment, Hothi and Taggar, who are both naturalized United States citizens, had been married and were raising two children together. The couple agreed to obtain a divorce for the purpose of entering into sham marriages with At-

wal and Kaur, the younger sister and brother of Taggar.

After they were divorced, Hothi and Taggar traveled to India. There, Hothi married Taggar's younger sister and Taggar married her younger brother, allegedly for the purpose of filing visa petitions for Atwal and Kaur.

If convicted, all four face a maximum five years in prison and fines for the conspiracy count and up to 10 years in prison and fines for each false statement count. Kaur and Atwal are aliens and also face removal from the United States to India.

WISCONSIN COUPLE HARBORED FILIPINO WOMAN FOR 20 YEARS

MILWAUKEE—A Wisconsin couple was indicted October 21 following an ICE investigation discovered they had held a Filipino woman in their home for nearly 20 years, forcing her to work as a domestic servant for little or no wages.

The couple only allowed the victim, an illegal alien, out of the house under supervision and threatened her with possible deportation if she refused to submit to such living conditions. Jefferson N. and Elnora M. Calimlim were both charged in a criminal complaint alleging that from 1985 through September 29, the Calimlins employed the woman as a domestic worker who was responsible for the caring of the Calimlim children, cleaning the house, and preparing the family meals. The Filipino woman lived at the residence and was promised a salary that would be “kept in an account.” She was working to send money home to her family in the Philippines. However, she did not have access to the account or know its whereabouts.

“To hold a domestic servant in virtual servitude for 20 years is a shockingly callous disregard for our nation’s most deeply held values,” said Brian Falvey, Resident Agent-in-Charge for ICE investigations in Milwaukee.

ICE CAPTURES MAN WANTED FOR SHOOTING AT ICE AGENTS

SEATTLE — A 22-year-old Salvadoran man suspected of shooting at federal agents here was captured in Los Angeles October 28 and is awaiting return to Seattle.

ICE agents, assisted by the Los Angeles Police Department, arrested Jose Wilbur Soto while he was leaving a restaurant with five acquaintances.

Soto is wanted for shooting at two ICE special agents in Washington October 18. No agents were injured in the assault. Soto’s arrest follows an intensive five-day manhunt spearheaded by the U.S. Marshals Service, ICE special agents, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and police officers of the Federal Way and Seattle Police Departments. Two firearms were recovered at the scene of the arrest.

“Anyone willing to shoot at federal agents automatically becomes a top priority nationwide,” said Seattle ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Leigh Winchell. “All the officers and agents involved knew we had to quickly apprehend the suspect to protect the public. He’ll now have to face federal and state charges in Seattle.”

GANG MEMBER GETS EIGHT YEARS ON WEAPONS, ROBBERY CHARGES

NEW YORK—A gun-carrying gang member arrested by ICE agents in July 2003 while on the way to commit an armed robbery has been sentenced to more than eight years in prison.

Luis Raudales-Calix, a member of the “MS 13” street gang, had been previously deported from the United States for felony convictions when he was arrested again by ICE agents.

After this latest arrest he was subsequently indicted and convicted for reentry after deportation, conspiracy to commit armed robbery and possess and use of a firearm. He was sentenced to 108 months in prison and will be deported after completing his sentence.



Luis Raudales-Calix

ICE ARRESTS MAN FOR ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRING MONEY TO IRAN

CLEVELAND—An ICE investigation has led to the indictment and arrest of an Ohio man who allegedly illegally funneled funds used for investments to Iran.

Mohammad Anvari-Hamedani, 70, of Fostoria, Ohio, was charged with 23 counts of violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) by allegedly sending and causing to be sent more than \$1 million to Iran. He is also charged with eight counts of money laundering, four counts of filing false tax returns and three counts of failing to file foreign bank account reports.

His indictment and arrest follows a joint investigation by ICE and the Criminal Investigations Division of the Internal Revenue Service.

Brian M. Moskowitz, the Special Agent-in-Charge for ICE in Detroit, ICE said, “Those who violate our export laws and ignore American economic sanctions against countries such as Iran should be mindful of this indictment. ICE will continue to use its expertise and authority to ‘follow the money’ whether it is here in the United States or around the world – as we work with our partners to bring these individuals to justice.”

Inside ICE

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, responsible for the enforcement of border, immigration, customs, infrastructure and transportation security laws.

ICE Ops Center...



Tim Caddigan, Acting Chief of the ICE Operations Center, explains the ICE incident management system to police officers from the Metro Washington, D.C. area. The tour of the center was held in conjunction with the Washington Area Public Safety and Media Relations Council meeting hosted by ICE October 28.